SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Under rule 388, I move that the Question Hour be suspended ...*(Interruptions)*

I beg to move :

"That the relevant rule relating to the Question Hour, namely Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, be suspended."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the relevant rule relating to the Question Hour, namely Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, be suspended."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : So, the Question Hour is suspended. The Prime Minister will move the Bill.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

TV Serials

*562. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of serials/programmes being telecast on Doordarshan for the last one or more than one year;

(b) whether some producers have established their monopoly in Doordarshan;

(c) the categories of programmes produced by Doordarshan through outsiders;

(d) whether some irregularities have come to the notice in granting approval of serials by Doordarshan resulting in loss of crores of rupees;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to revise the guidelines for approval of serials;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government also propose to set-up 'Doordarshan all Party MPs Advisory Council' to control the unrestricted approval of TV programmes; and

(i) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Information is being collected from the Kendras in the country and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Doordarshan commissions programmes to outside producers in various formats which include telefilms, serials, feature films, documentaries, news features, field based programmes, interviews etc.

(d) Such complaints are received at various kendras and the Directorate General, Doordarshan from time to time. Complaints of a serious nature and indicative of gross procedural irregularities are enquired into departmentally and the matter referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) whenever warranted.

(e) During the last three years six such complaints were received out of which two have been investigated by CBI. In one case the CBI has launched prosecution proceedings against the concerned officer while in another its investigations are still on. In the remaining four cases departmental enquiry is in progress.

(f) to (h) There is no such proposal at present.

(i) Does not arise.

Decanalisation of Sugar Export

*563. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to decanalise the sugar export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have thought about the impact of decanalising of export on the demand and supply balance in the domestic market before taking such decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Indian Sugar and General Industry Export-Import Corporation Limited (ISGEIC) has opposed the above decision; and

(f) if so, the details of objections raised by the ISGEIC?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is of the view that decanalisation of export would provide the needed incentive to sugar manufacturing units to produce good quality sugar and earn their place in the International export market.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Export of only surplus quantity of sugar would be notified after ensuring that adequate quantities are available for domestic market.

(e) and (f) The Indian Sugar and General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd. (ISGIEIC) have not as yet

represented to the Government regarding decanalisation of export of sugar.

[English]

Minister's Conference

*564. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of the State Food and Civil Supplies Ministers was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the matters discussed therein;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) the proposed prices and names of commodities likely to be supplied to the poor and the criteria for determining the eligibility; and

(e) the cost to the exchequer in terms of subsidies and administrative expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) A Conference of State Food & Civil Supplies Ministers was held in New Delhi on 7th August, 1996 on the subject "Streamlining the Public Distribution System with focus on Poor". The Conference unanimously endorsed the proposal for targetting the PDS on the poor and providing specially subsidised foodgrains to the population Below Poverty Line and recommended that the Central Government may bring in this targetted PDS into force as soon as possible.

(d) and (e) The details for streamlining the PDS accordingly are being worked out.

[Translation]

Distribution of Telephone Bills by Private Sector

*565. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MTNL and Telecom Department have awarded contracts for packing and distribution of telephone bills to private sector;

(b) if so, the details alongwith terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether the rates of contractors have been heavily raised in comparison to previous years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the additional annual expenditure likely to be incurred by introducing the said scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Contracts have been awarded for packing and distribution of bills in MTNL, Mumbai and Delhi. Department of Telecom has awarded a contract for packing only of bills in J & K Circle.

(b) The details are as statements-I, II, and III respectively.

(c) The rates were raised following finalisation of tender in Mumbai. In J & K Circle packing of bills by private contractors has been introduced this year.

(d) MTNL, Mumbai revised the rates as a result of the tender.

(e) In MTNL Mumbai, the estimated additional annual expenditure is Rs. 11,40,000/-.

In J & K Circle (Department of Telecommunications), the estimated additional annual expenditure is Rs. 45000/-.

STATEMENT–I

DETAILS OF RATES PAYABLE TO CONTRACTORS FOR PACKING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE BILLS IN RESPECT OF MUMBAI TELEPHONES

1. Mailing Agents

	(Rs. per thousand bills)	
	1994-95-96	**1996-97**
Single Page bill (Without enclosure)	Rs. 35.00	Rs. 50.00
With enclosure	Rs. 40.00	Rs. 60.00
Multi Page bill (Without enclosure)	Rs. 45.00	Rs. 60.00
With enclosure	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 70.00

+ Actual Postal Charges.

2. Private Couriers

For lifting the bills from Computer Cell and delivery at the subs. premises

For South Area	Rs. 1950.00	Rs. 1950.00	No Change
For West-III Area	Rs. 2750.00	Rs. 2750.00	